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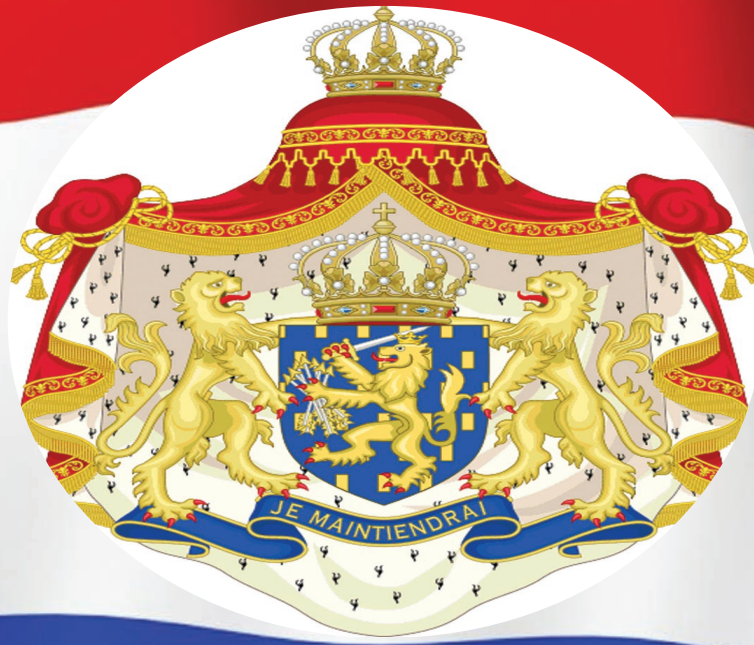
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SPECIAL EDITION



WELCOMING
KING WILLEM-ALEXANDER
& QUEEN MAXIMA
OF THE NETHERLANDS





A new era has begun



PABIEN!

30 APRIL, 2013

NA VISPERA DI UN CAPITULO NOBO DEN NOS HISTORIA



'I'll be king, but also human':

Willem-Alexander and wife Maxima on the Dutch inauguration

The couple will become king and queen when current monarch Beatrix, who has been on the throne for 33 years, abdicates on 30 April. Her decision was announced in January and marks the beginning of a new era for the Dutch royal family.

Despite the momentous occasion, the incoming king and his queen were relaxed, happy and laid back during their chat with Dutch journalists Marielle Tweekbeeke and Rick Nieman.

"People can address me any way they see fit," Willem-Alexander began, establishing a humble tone. "I'm not obsessed with protocol. I will be king, but also a human being."

He continued, "I want to be a king who accepts tradition, who follows the line of conduct of his predecessors, and represents consistency and stability in his nation. But at the same time, I want to be a 21st century king, someone who inspires and accurately represents Dutch society."

The heir to the throne also

Prince Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands and his wife Princess Maxima in an exclusive TV interview on the royal inauguration



revealed he won't be referred to as King William IV of Holland because he doesn't want to be just "a number".

His wife Maxima was in

agreement. "People in the street call me Maxima. At the end of the day, it's not that important to be called princess or queen. The im-

portant thing is the title we represent."

The Argentinian royal also revealed she is putting the couple's young daughters – Amalia, nine, Alexia, seven, and Ariane, who is five – through their paces in pre-ceremony rehearsals.

Maxima said it was important her daughters "know what to do at all times" adding, "It's not very complicated, but they have to do well."

Amalia will be styled the Princess of Orange on 30 April, but her father insists there will be no special treatment.

"Our daughters are our daughters and we love them all equally," the prince said. "There isn't the slightest difference."

"Amalia's title will be made formal when she's eighteen and she enters the

State Council. Until then, we will protect her as much as possible.

"That means she won't participate in official engagements, or as little as possible. Her environment right now should only include her parents, her sisters, and her friends."

The interview hit a sad note when the couple discussed Prince Johan Friso. Willem-Alexander's brother has been in a coma since he was buried under an avalanche in the Austrian Alps last winter.

Maxima fought back tears as Willem-Alexander discussed his sibling's condition, which he described as "a great tragedy".

"For over a year, we've been living with this terrible situation during which my mother and [Prince Friso's wife] Mabel have been doing everything humanly possible to be by my brother's side."

"Every day, they are waiting for him. For my part, all I can do is support them – and make sure I do my best on 30 April."

Beatrix: a Queen who transformed Dutch royalty



Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands on the day that she was sworn in as the Queen of the Netherlands and Head of State on April 30, 1980.

THE HAGUE (AFP) - The Netherlands' energetic Queen Beatrix, who abdicated in favour of crown prince Willem Alexander has won many Dutch hearts in her almost 33 years on the throne by giving the monarchy a modern, hard-working image.

Stepping into the shoes of her much loved mother Juliana in 1980 at the age of 42, Beatrix quickly set out to make her mark on the country she was destined to rule by birth.

Contrary to her mother's unobtrusive style of rule, Beatrix refused to be relegated to ribbon-cutting; changing the mode of address from "madam" to "majesty", and transforming one of the royal palaces in The Hague, the seat of government, into a working palace.

Here she received heads of state in her affable though formal manner and met weekly with successive prime ministers to discuss matters of government, earning the nickname "chief executive officer of the Netherlands".

She also signed laws and played an important role in Dutch politics by appointing the so-called "formateur" who explores possibilities for coalition government after general elections.

Last year's polls in which Prime Minister Mark Rutte was elected to head government for a second time, marked the first time she was not actively involved in the formateur's appointment.

Born on January 31, 1938 as the first child of queen Ju-

liana and prince Bernhardt, Beatrix Wilhelmina Armgard, princess of Orange-Nassau, lived with her family in exile in Britain and Canada during World War II.

After completing her law studies, she married West German diplomat Claus von Amsberg in March 1966 -- prompting violent demonstrations against the future queen's union with someone who had worn a Hitler Youth uniform as a boy.

Riots also preceded Beatrix's coronation on April 30, 1980 following her mother's surprise abdication after a 31-year reign, when Amsterdam squatters protested the high costs of the ceremony.

But the new Queen's humble approach soon started winning over her Calvinist subjects.

"Not power, personal desire nor a claim to hereditary power but only the desire to serve the community can give substance to a modern monarchy," she said in her crowning speech.

An opinion poll in April 2009 found that 85 percent of Dutch citizens felt Beatrix was performing well as head of state.

Known colloquially as "Trix", the queen radiates a bourgeoisie allure in her immaculately pressed, practical dresses and suits and a stiff helmet hairdo that a staggering collection of hats cannot tease out of place.

"Only perfection was good enough for her. She worked very systematically, high in the sky like a bird of prey, no detail on the ground

escaped her," a former prime minister, Dries van Agt, has said of the queen.

"The (royal) court is really run like a business," according to Henk Wesseling, historian and court advisor.

A former servant said: "She can get pretty angry when things around her go wrong or if she is confronted with unexpected situations. Under all circumstances she wants to be in control of the situation."

American magazine Forbes in 2008 listed Beatrix as the world's 14th wealthiest royal with an estimated net worth of 300 million dollars (214 million euros).

She has three sons, the oldest of whom, Willem-Alexander (born 27 April 1967), will succeed her as monarch.

A spate of misfortunes in the later years of her career was met with an outpouring of sympathy from her subjects.

The latest tragedy struck last year when her middle son, Friso was left brain-damaged after being buried by an avalanche while skiing off-piste in Lech in Austria in



February last year.

Her husband prince Claus died at the age of 76 in 2002, followed by the Queen's mother and then her father in 2004.

And on Queen's Day, April 30, 2009, the nation was plunged into shock when a man ploughed his car into festivalgoers in the central city of Apeldoorn, narrowly missing an open bus transporting Beatrix and members of her family.

Seven bystanders were killed in what the driver confessed was an attack on the royal family.

In an emotional, televised address to the nation shortly afterwards, Beatrix spoke of

her "deep shock".

Opinion polls in the following days said support for the Queen had spiked, with 43 percent saying she should stay on the throne -- up from 27 percent before the attack.

Beatrix, however, has never been a slave to polls.

"I find popularity dangerous ... superficial and temporary," she once said in an interview with Dutch NOS public television.

Speculation rose over an abdication when in 2006 renovations were announced at Beatrix's distinctive octagonal-shaped Drakenstein castle southeast of Amsterdam in 2006, where she is now expected to live.

A warm welcome
to our new King
Willem-Alexander
and Queen
Maxima

Best wishes to our
Queen Beatrix



THE MORNING NEWS

Willem Alexander: From 'Prince Pils' to Dutch king



Future Dutch king Willem Alexander, 45, has undergone a remarkable transformation from his image of a boozing Casanova, ill-equipped for the throne, into that of a serious, responsible family man well-loved by his people.

Due to take over the reins from his mother, Queen Beatrix, he has been preparing for his accession by taking on more and more duties in a bid to shake off his immature reputation.



The oldest of three sons, Willem Alexander had a difficult adolescence, and was sent to complete his high school in Wales.

Upon return to the Netherlands for his military service in the Navy and then to study, Willem Alexander built an image in the Dutch media as a hard-partying and troublesome royal, earning him the nickname of "Prince Pils" after a particular beer.

But after graduating in 1993, he started travelling the country and took steps to shake off his negative image.

In 1998 he got the parliamentary nod to become a member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

The future Dutch king also developed an interest in water management, an effort rewarded in 2006 with his appointment as chairman of the UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation.

But it was his meeting with Maxima in 1999 and their subsequent marriage in February 2002, that changed his image into that of a serious royal and family man, worthy of the Dutch throne.

Willem Alexander was "intelligent, tender and strong and has both feet on the ground," Maxima once said of her husband in an interview.

Seen as more progressive and closer to ordinary people than even his mother, Willem Alexander has further stamped modernity on the Royal House through his visits abroad and an online blog.

Holding various ranks in the Dutch armed forces, he frequently visits Dutch navy vessels, air and army bases, including in Afghanistan and along the Somali coast, where the Dutch navy is part of the European Union's anti-piracy operations.

He has a military and civil pilot's licence, meaning he can fly commercial jets. He has been known to fly official aircraft as well as planes belonging to the Royal Dutch Airlines (KLM).

The royal family's lifestyle however has not been without criticism.

Willem Alexander in November 2009 sold his luxurious holiday house as it was under construction on the Mozambican coast under pressure from hostile public opinion who saw it as a garish asset in the poverty-racked southeastern African country.

Last year, the future king publicly confessed to being ashamed after taking part in a traditional Dutch "toilet-throwing" contest in a small eastern village during Queen's Day celebrations on April 30.

"Here in the Netherlands there are towns that take part in the throwing of toilet-bowls for a laugh," he said.

"I participated with a smile, but not without shame in thinking about the some 2.6 billion people around the world that do not have this most basic infrastructure to fulfil a daily need with dignity," he said.



We wish you all the best

Thanks Beatrix
for being our Queen
all these years

Welcome
King
Willem-Alexander
and
Queen Maxima



FreeZoneAruba



First Dutch Coin Marking the Royal Succession

The Royal Dutch Mint unveiled on February 6, 2013, the first official legal tender coin marking the royal Succession. The new coin, a €2 piece, includes the double portraits of the current head of State, Queen Beatrix along with her successor, Willem-Alexander, the Prince of Orange.

The new coin includes the text "WILLEM-ALEXANDER PRINS VAN ORANJE – BEATRIX KONINGIN DER NEDERLANDEN" the legend is separated with a small crown at the top of the coin, the date of the announcement "28 JANUARI" appears below the two conjoined portraits which are facing to the left. In accordance with Dutch numismatic tradition, all official circulation coinage issued bearing the portrait of the new King Willem-Alexander will face to the opposite direction of the previous monarch, in this case, he will face to the right.

The coin are available in Proof, FDC and circulation quality strikes and will be packaged in variations according to their quality. A mintage of 20,000,000 pieces has been authorized and allocated to their respective qualities:

- 10,000 – Proof,
- 25,000 – BU in coin-card,
- (Mintage un-specified) Circulation quality – bag of 100 coins
- Rolls, 2,500 pieces - Circulation quality – rolls of 25 coins





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want to congratulate and welcome
King Willem Alexander & Queen Maxima*

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A look at the tiaras Princess Maxima may wear to the Dutch inauguration



When Princess Maxima becomes the Netherlands' Queen consort, she will wear a head-dress worthy of that title.

Gone will be the delicate tiaras that were the hallmarks of her years as Crown Princess, replaced by a more dazzling headpiece that reflects her royal promotion.

Maxima may well be inspired by her mother-in-law when choosing a headpiece on the day her husband Crown Prince Willem-Alexander is crowned King.

Pearls remain a sentimental favourite of both Maxima and Queen Beatrix. The Princess



often chooses them to be the central feature in the tiaras that she wears. Beatrix, the oldest reigning monarch of the Netherlands, chose a classic tiara decorated with pearls and diamonds with a matching set

of earrings, a necklace and a brooch at her coronation in 1980.

Although pearls would be the obvious choice for Maxima, the Princess has also sported an array of colourful jewels including sapphires, emeralds and rubies. However, diamonds are always the focal point in each of these head-dresses and so the floral motif diadem which Maxima wore on a state visit to Qatar may be a contender.

Combination photo gives a full gallery of the tiaras Princess Maxima may wear at the Dutch inauguration.

Dutch love Argentine queen-to-be despite father's past

MAXIMA, the Argentine-born future queen of the Netherlands, has worked hard to win over Dutch hearts and is immensely popular despite her father's murky role in his country's military junta.

As the wife of Crown Prince Willem Alexander, former investment banker Maxima Zorreguieta, 41, will on April 30 become queen of the Dutch.

The couple had a fairytale romance and were married in 2002, with Maxima being given Dutch nationality and allowed to remain a Catholic in the staunchly Protestant House of Orange.

But the run-up to the marriage was overshadowed by the past of Maxima's father, Jorge Zorreguieta, who was a junior agriculture minister under the notorious Argentine regime of general Jorge Videla in the 1970s.

The junta, which Videla led from 1976-81, is held responsible for the disappearance of up to 30,000 people during the so-called "Dirty War" against political opponents.

Amid popular outcry in the politically correct Netherlands, Maxima's father was told he could not attend his daughter's wedding in Amsterdam, and her mother also stayed away out of solidarity.

Maxima said at the time she was "ready" to accept the decision, but television cameras lingered on her tears as her father's favourite tango "Adios nonino" (Goodbye father) was played during the wedding ceremony.

The Dutch cabinet even commissioned historian Michiel Baud to look into the extent of Zorreguieta's involvement in the junta.

He concluded that Zorreguieta must have known something about the torture and the thousands that disappeared at the time, but was almost certainly not personally involved.

While Zorreguieta has been accused of involvement in some disappearances and continues to be investigated, he has never been charged. However, Dutch media have reported that he will not be welcome at the April 30 hand-over ceremony.

With her easy charm and ready smile, Maxima was quick to win over the Dutch people, immersing herself in the language and culture, even swimming in an Amsterdam canal for charity.

She's the country's most



popular royal according to opinion polls, even more so than the much-admired Queen Beatrix and a long way ahead of her husband, whose youthful reputation as a boozing Casanova was transformed by his relationship with Maxima.

The princess has invested time in development projects, supporting micro-credit initiatives in developing countries and the emancipation of women of immigrant origin.

But she has not been entirely without controversy.

In 2007, commenting on the issue of Dutch identity, she said: "The Dutch person does not exist, no more than the Argentinian." The remark sparked criticism that she was speaking out of turn.

Born on May 17, 1971 in Buenos Aires, where she grew up, Maxima Zorreguieta met Willem Alexander through mutual friends in Madrid in 1999. Having received an economics degree in 1995, Maxima worked for a string of international banks in Buenos Aires, New York and Brussels.

Since getting married, the couple have been living in Wassenaar, an upmarket suburb of The Hague, the seat of government and the city where Queen Beatrix lives and works.

They have three daughters, Catharina-Amalia, 9, who as the heir apparent will become the Princess of Orange, Alexia, 7, and Ariane, 5.

"People are incredibly kind to me," Maxima said of life in the Netherlands, praising the fact that she was not chased around by photographers.

"It's fantastic that I can move around freely here in the Netherlands and that I can take my children to school and do shopping," she said of life in a country where royalty is expected to tread a fine line between normalcy and majesty.



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Welcomes

**King Willem-Alexander
and Queen Maxima**

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Succession to the throne

Members of the royal family who marry without permission of Parliament forfeit their right to succeed to the throne and their membership of the Royal House.

Now that the Prince of Orange is King, the children of Prince Constantijn and Princess Laurentijn will be related to the monarch in the third degree. They will still be in line to succeed to the throne, but they will not be members of the Royal House. While their grandmother remains Queen, they are related to the monarch in the second degree, thus members of the Royal House.

The order of succession to the throne

The right to the throne passes to the eldest descendant of the monarch and, in turn, to his or her descendants. Accordingly, the first in line to the throne is currently the Prince of Orange and, after him, his children, Princess Catharina-Amalia being the eldest.

After the children of the heir apparent, the next in line to the throne is the next descendant of the monarch. As

Prince Friso is no longer in line to succeed, Prince Constantijn is the first in line after the children of the Prince of Orange. After Prince Constantijn come his children, then the descendants of the previous monarch (Queen Juliana) up to and including relatives in the third degree of consanguinity.

The spouses of the monarch's relatives to the second degree are members of the Royal House, but are not in line of succession to the throne.

Current line of succession to the throne

King Willem-Alexander
Princess Catharina-Amalia

Princess Alexia
Princess Ariane
Prince Constantijn
Countess Eloise
Count Claus-Casimir
Countess Leonore
Princess Margriet
Prince Maurits
Prince Bernhard

Prince Maurits and Prince Bernhard will no longer be eligible to succeed to the throne now the Prince of Orange is King.

Coat of arms



The royal coat of arms dates from 1815, when the Kingdom of the Netherlands was founded. It is the same as the Dutch national coat of arms. In 1907 it was changed, and in 1980 once again laid down by Royal Decree.

The crowns and the royal mantle were added to indi-

cate that the House of Orange-Nassau had been elevated to royal status. The royal coat of arms takes its component parts from three other coats of arms:

The motto *Je Maintiendrai* ("I will maintain") comes from the coat of arms of the House of Chalon.

The lion comes from the coat of arms of the House of Nassau.

The sword and sheaf of arrows in the lion's paw come from the coat of arms of the States General of the Republic of the United Provinces (17th and 18th centuries). The seven arrows stand for the seven provinces. The arrows also symbolise cooperation: individually they are vulnerable, but together they are strong.

Je maintiendrai

The motto "*Je maintiendrai*" (I will maintain / I will maintain) is derived from the motto that René of Chalon carried in his arms. The last Prince of Orange from the House of Chalon was Filibert. He died childless in 1530. His heir was his cousin René of Nassau, son of Count Henry III of Nassau and Filibert's sister Claudia of Chalon. René inherited the Principality of Orange under the condition that he would adopt the name and arms of Chalon. He is therefore known as René of Chalon. He also carried the weapon from Chalon, with the motto "*You maintiendray Chalons*". When René himself died in 1544 without leaving any legitimate children behind, his cousin William of Nassau, became his heir, son of his uncle William "the Rich" and Juliana of Stolberg. This heir was known as William of Orange. William of Orange took his own weapon, and changed the motto of René to "*You maintiendray Nassau*". By his successors, the word Nassau was omitted.

Koninginnedag

Koninginnedag or **Queen's Day** is a national holiday in the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Celebrated on 30 April (*the 29th if the 30th falls on a Sunday*), Koninginnedag is Queen Beatrix's official celebration day. Though Queen Beatrix was born on 31 January, the holiday is observed on 30 April as it was the birthday of her mother and predecessor, Juliana. Many of the traditional activities are held outside, and observing the holiday in April makes suitable weather more likely.

In 2014, the holiday will become known as **Koningsdag** or **King's Day** following the investiture of Willem-Alexander as king of the Netherlands on April 30th, 2013. Koningsdag will be celebrated on 27 April, Willem-Alexander's birthday. However, **the first Koningsdag will be held on 26 April 2014** because 27 April is a Sunday.

The holiday was first observed on 31 August 1885 as **Prinsessedag** or **Princess's Day**, the fifth birthday of Princess Wilhelmina, heiress to the Dutch throne. On her accession, the holiday acquired its present name, Koninginnedag. Following the accession of Wilhelmina's daughter Queen Juliana in 1948, the holiday was moved to her birthday. Her daughter, Beatrix retained the celebration on 30 April after she ascended the throne in 1980. Beatrix altered her mother's custom of receiving a floral parade near a Royal palace, instead choosing to visit different Dutch towns each year and join in the festivities along with her sons. Koninginnedag is known for its nationwide *vrijmarkt* ("free market"), at which many Dutch sell their secondhand items. It is also an opportunity for "orange madness" or *oranjegekte*, for the national colour, when the normally strait-laced Dutch let down their hair, often dyed orange for the occasion.



WELCOME TO THE NEW DUTCH KING



**Thank You and Farewell to
our outgoing Queen Beatrix**

The Netherlands make changes for King Willem-Alexander

Following the news of Queen Beatrix's abdication, the Dutch Royal Household has begun implementing several changes in preparation for Prince Willem-Alexander's accession to the throne.

The order of succession will now change as the Prince of Orange prepares to become King of the Netherlands. When Willem-Alexander is inaugurated on April 30, his wife, Princess Maxima, will become Queen consort. In accordance with the country's constitution the couple's eldest daughter Princess Amalia, who is nine-years-old, will then become the heir apparent.

The youngster, whose full name is Cathalina-Amalia Beatrix Carmen Victoria, was born on December 7, 2003 a year after Willem-Alexander and Maxima's wedding. She was baptised on June 12, 2004 in the church of St. James in the Dutch capital, Amsterdam.

Amalia's sisters Alexia, seven and five-year-old Ariane will follow their elder sister in the succession. The trio, affectionately known to their parents as the 'Triple A's', have been given as normal a life as possible, away from the media spotlight.

For the time being, Maxima and Willem-Alexander, who will become King Willem-Alexander upon his inaugura-



tion, will remain in their home Wassenaar Eikenhorst, but will later transfer to Huis ten Bosch royal Palace in The Hague "when it is suitable", according to a statement released by the Dutch Parliament.

Whilst their move date date is currently unknown, the sprawling property will still be used as the venue for receptions and other official events.

Queen Beatrix, whose title will change to Princess Beatrix, will also be relocating and will call castle Drakenstein Lage Vurrche her home from April 30 onwards, the date her son officially becomes king.

The castle, which was Beatrix and her husband Prince Claus' first residence together, has recently undergone a major renovation.

Royal residences of the Dutch Monarchy

Queen Beatrix uses three palaces: Noordeinde Palace, Huis ten Bosch Palace and the Royal Palace in Amsterdam. These palaces belong to the State.



The Royal Palace in Amsterdam (Dutch: Koninklijk Paleis Amsterdam or Paleis op de Dam) is one of three palaces still in use by the Dutch royal family. It is used for state visits, award ceremonies and other official receptions. When the palace is not being used by the royal family, it is open to the public. Visitors can explore the magnificent interior and discover the rich history of the building.



The Noordeinde Palace, located in The Hague in the province of South Holland, it has been used as the "working palace" for Queen Beatrix since 1984. It has been a palace of the Royal House since 1609 when the state presented it to William of Orange's widow as a gift.



Huis ten Bosch Palace in The Hague is the residence of Queen Beatrix. She and her family moved into the palace in 1981. Before that, Queen Beatrix, Prince Claus and their children lived in Drakenstein Castle in Baarn. Huis ten Bosch Palace is situated in the Haagse Bos forest and is only a 15-minute drive from De Horsten Estate in Wassenaar, where Prince Willem-Alexander and his family live

King Willem-Alexander will have an inauguration not a coronation

Queen Beatrix's decision to hand over the throne to her eldest son may have historical significance, but the actual process and ceremony is very simple.

On April 30, she will sign a document – the act of abdication – and Willem-Alexander automatically becomes king, although he still has to be inaugurated. His oldest daughter, Catharina-Amalia, will automatically become first in line to succeed him.

Willem-Alexander will be sworn in in the Nieuwe Kerk in Amsterdam, but it will be a secular rather than a religious ceremony.

The inauguration takes the form of a meeting of the upper and lower houses of parliament – as set down in the constitution. This means all members of the lower and upper houses of parliament will be there as will a limited number of other guests.

The new king will then swear to be faithful to the constitution and to fulfil his role properly.

Symbols

The crown, sceptre and orb – traditional signs of royalty – as well the kingdom's sword, symbolizing his power, will be laid out in front of Willem-Alexander, as will a copy of the constitution. But the crown will not be placed on his head and is never worn.



A warm welcome
to the new Dutch King,

Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima
and a heartfelt thank you
to Queen Beatrix.



The Dutch Kingdom

The Kingdom of the Netherlands (Dutch: Koninkrijk der Nederlanden commonly known as the Netherlands, is a sovereign state and constitutional monarchy with territory in Western Europe and in the Caribbean.

The four parts of the Kingdom – **Aruba, Curaçao, the Netherlands, and Sint Maarten** – are referred to as countries and participate on a basis of equality as partners in the Kingdom. In practice, however, most of the Kingdom affairs are administered by the Netherlands (which comprises roughly 98% of the Kingdom's land area and population) on behalf of the entire Kingdom, with Aruba, Curaçao, and Sint Maarten being dependent on the Netherlands.

The vast majority of the country of the Netherlands is located in Europe, with the exception of its three special municipalities (**Bonaire, Sint Eustatius, and Saba**) that are located in the Caribbean. The countries of Aruba, Curaçao, and Sint Maarten are located in the Caribbean as well.

Aruba

Aruba is a centralized unitary state. Its administration consists of the Governor, who represents the Monarch, and the (Aruban) Council of Ministers, headed by a Prime Minister. The people are represented in the Estates of Aruba. The Governor of Aruba is Fredis Refunjol, and the Prime Minister is Mike Eman. It has the Aruban florin as its currency.

Curaçao

Curaçao is a centralized unitary state, with similar administrative characteristics to Aruba. It has the Netherlands Antillean guilder as its currency.

Sint Maarten

Sint Maarten is a centralized unitary state, with similar administrative characteristics to Aruba. It has the Netherlands Antillean guilder as its currency.

Netherlands

The Netherlands is a representative parliamentary democracy organized as a unitary state. Its administration consists of the Monarch and the Council of Ministers, which is headed by a Prime Minister. The people are represented by the States-General of the Netherlands, which consists of a House of Representatives and a Senate. The Netherlands is divided into 12 provinces: Drenthe, Flevoland, Friesland, Gelderland, Groningen, Limburg, Noord-Brabant, Noord-Holland, Overijssel, Utrecht, Zeeland, and Zuid-Holland. The provinces are divided into municipalities. The Prime Minister of the Netherlands is Mark Rutte. It has the euro as its currency, except in the special municipalities of the BES islands in the Caribbean, where the Netherlands Antillean guilder has been replaced by the US dollar in 2011.

Bonaire, Sint Eustatius, and Saba

The special municipalities of Bonaire, Sint Eustatius, and Saba are part of the Netherlands proper but do not form part of a province. They resemble ordinary Dutch municipalities in most ways (with a mayor, aldermen, and a municipal council, for example) and are subject to the ordinary Dutch legislative process, although most of the laws of the former Netherlands Antilles are still in force as the result of an agreed "legislative restriction" until 2015. Residents of these three islands are also able to vote in Dutch national and European elections. There are, however, some derogations for these islands. Social security, for example, is not on the same level as it is in the Netherlands. In November 2008 it was decided to introduce the U.S. dollar in the three islands. The date of introduction was 1 January 2011. The Netherlands carries the risk of exchange rate fluctuations regarding cash flows between the state and the islands.

*Alhambra Casino offers a sincere
Thank You to Queen Beatrix
and Congratulations to
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House of Orange-Nassau

The House of Orange-Nassau, a branch of the European House of Nassau, has played a central role in the politics and government of the Netherlands — and at times in Europe — especially since William I of Orange (also known as "William the Silent" and "Father of the Fatherland") organized the Dutch revolt against Spanish rule, which after the Eighty Years' War led to an independent Dutch state.

Several members of the house served during this war and after as governor or stadtholder during the Dutch Republic. However, in 1815, after a long period as a republic, the Netherlands became a monarchy under the House of Orange-Nassau.

The dynasty was established as a result of the marriage of Hendrik III of Nassau-Breda from Germany and Claudia of Châlon-Orange from French Burgundy in 1515. Their son René inherited in 1530 the Principal-



William the Silent

ity of Orange from his mother's brother, Philibert of Châlon. As the first Nassau to be the Prince of Orange, René could have used "Orange-Nassau" as his new family name. However, his uncle, in his will, had stipulated that René should continue the use of the name

Châlon-Orange. History knows him therefore as René of Châlon. After the death of René in 1544 his cousin William of Nassau-Dillenburg inherited all his lands. This "William I of Orange" - in English better known as William the Silent - became the founder of the House of Orange-Nassau.

William was born in Nassau in Germany. The king of Spain made him stadtholder (a sort of leader) about several Dutch provinces. But William converted to Protestantism, the religion of the Dutch people and joined their struggle for independence. The king of Spain offered a reward for the person who would kill William. In 1584 William was shot by Balthasar Gerards in his house in Delft.

In the Netherlands, people often call him "Father of the fatherland". The Dutch national anthem, the Wilhelmus, is about William.

Princess Amalia: The little girl who will become heir to the Dutch throne



She isn't even ten yet, and already a huge responsibility falls on the small shoulders of the Netherlands' Princess Amalia.

On April 30, the youngster will be styled as the new Princess of Orange, and become the heir to the Dutch throne when her father is inaugurated as William IV of Holland. Her future, and that of her father, has been brought sharply into focus following the abdication of her grandmother, Queen Beatrix.

The future Princess of Orange was born on December 7, 2003, in The Hague, receiving the name Catharina-Amalia Beatrix Carmen Victoria. She would later be baptized on June 12, 2004, in Amsterdam's St. James' church.

Since then, her parents

have tried to give Amalia and her two younger sisters, Alexia and Ariana, as normal a childhood as possible. However, both are aware of the role that their daughter will have to play in the future, so the presence of their eldest child at official functions is becoming increasingly common.

As delicate as the balancing act is, Amalia's increasing profile is the perfect training for her new royal role as the Princess of Orange.

Upon her father's accession, she will continue to reside in Wassenaar, but will eventually move along with her family to Huis ten Bosch. Princess

Catharina-Amalia will assume a seat in the Advisory Division of the Council of State of the Netherlands upon reaching the age of majority at 18.



Princess Maxima and Prince Willem-Alexander emblazoned on inauguration memorabilia



be able to keep a souvenir of the momentous occasion.

The mementos have been manufactured and sold by Dutch company Pro Badge via their website. The Woerden-based business offer badges of the royals and their children for €2, iPhone cases for €9.95

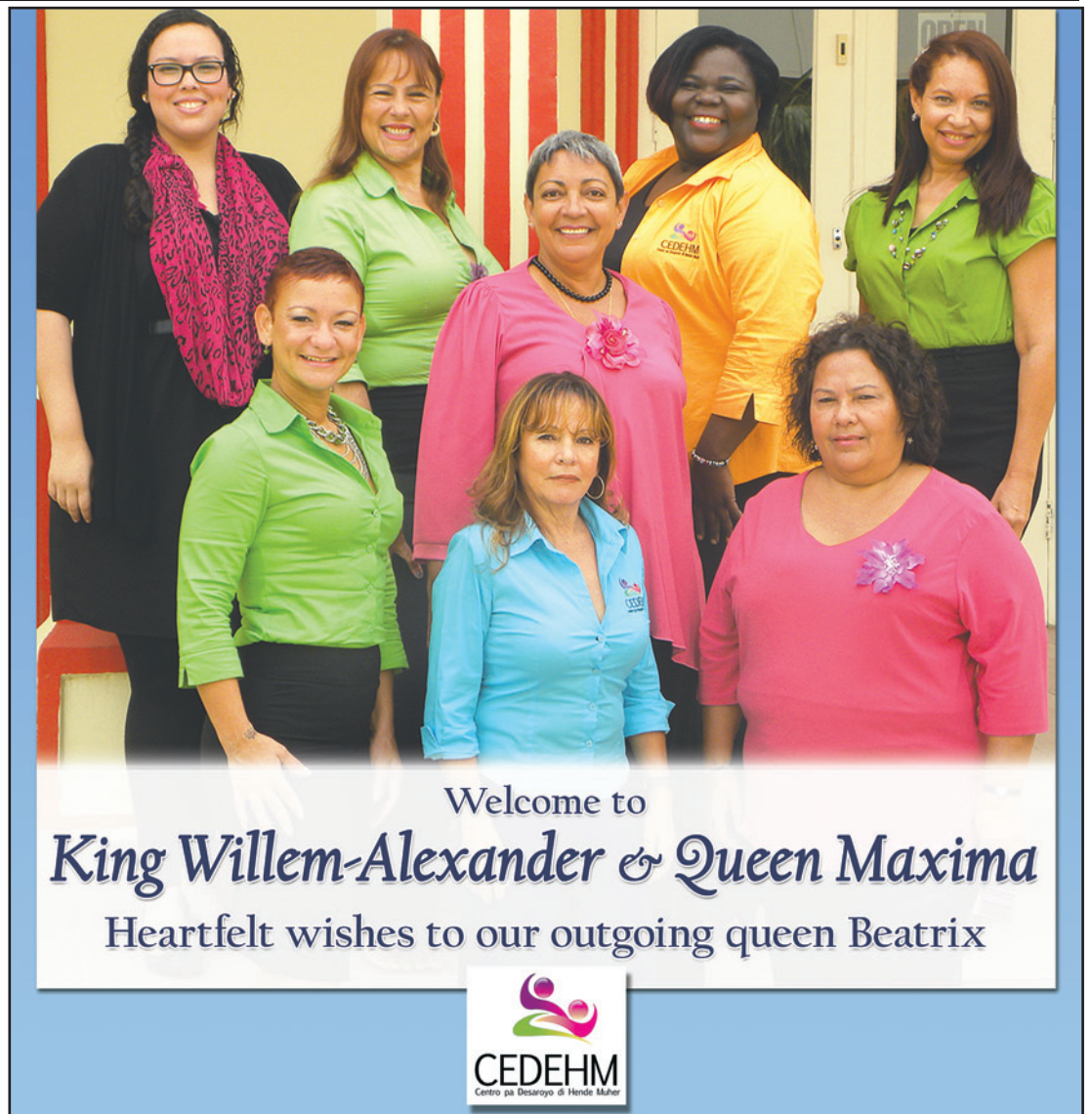
The Netherlands has prepared for the biggest event in its royal calendar this year. With the inauguration of **Prince Willem-Alexander** commemorative memorabilia honouring the occasion has been released to the public.

From scarves to iPad covers, mouse mats to mugs, fans of **Queen Beatrix**, **Princess Maxima** and her husband and king-to-be, **Willem-Alexander**, will

and royal blue cushions for €14.95.

Images of the royal couple and their 'triple A' daughters, **Amalia**, **Alexia** and **Ariana**, feature on money pouches, mugs and a framed title that could hang in the home of an enthusiastic royal watcher.

money pouches, mugs and a framed title that could hang in the home of an enthusiastic royal watcher.



Longest reigning Dutch monarch Wilhelmina of the Netherlands

Wilhelmina (Wilhelmina Helena Pauline Maria; 31 August 1880 – 28 November 1962) was Queen regnant of the Kingdom of the Netherlands from **1890 to 1948**. She reigned for nearly 58 years, longer than any other Dutch monarch. Her reign saw World War I and World War II, the economic crisis of 1933, and the decline of the Netherlands as a major colonial power. Outside the Netherlands she is primarily remembered for her role in World War II, in which she proved to be a great inspiration to the Dutch resistance.

Early life

Princess Wilhelmina Helena Pauline Maria of the Netherlands, Princess of Orange-Nassau, was born on 31 August 1880 in The Hague, Netherlands. She was the only child of King William III and his second wife, Emma of Waldeck and Pyrmont. Her childhood was characterised by a close relationship with her parents, especially with her father, who was 63 years of age when she was born.

King William III had three sons with his first wife, Sophie of Württemberg. However, when Wilhelmina was born, William had already

outlived two of them and only the childless Prince Alexander and the King's uncle Prince Frederick of the Netherlands were alive, so under the Semi-Salic system of inheritance that was in place in the Netherlands until 1887, she was third in line to the throne from birth. When Prince Frederick died a year later in 1881, she became second in line. When Wilhelmina was four, Alexander died and the young girl became heiress presumptive.

King William III died on 23 November 1890, and, although Princess Wilhelmina became queen of the Netherlands instantly, her mother, Emma, was named regent.

In 1895, Queen Wilhelmina visited Queen Victoria of the United Kingdom, who penned an evaluation in her diary:

The young Queen ... still has her hair hanging loose. She is slender and graceful, and makes an impression as a very intelligent and very cute girl. She speaks good English and knows how to behave with charming manners

Marriage and succession

Wilhelmina was enthroned on 6 September 1898. On 7



February 1901 in The Hague, she married Duke Henry of Mecklenburg-Schwerin. Nine months later, on 9 November, Wilhelmina suffered a miscarriage, and on 4 May 1902 she gave birth to a premature stillborn son. Her next pregnancy ended in another miscarriage on 23 July 1906. During this time period, Wilhelmina's heir presumptive

was her first cousin once removed William Ernest, Grand Duke of Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach, and next in line was his aunt (and Wilhelmina's cousin) Princess Marie Alexandrine of Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach. As it was assumed that the former would renounce his claim to the Dutch throne, and that the latter was too elderly and sickly to become Queen, Marie Alexandrine's eldest son Prince Heinrich XXXII Reuss of Köstritz stood in line to succeed Wilhelmina, assuming she had no surviving children. Heinrich was a German prince with close associations with the Imperial family and the military; and there were fears that were the Queen to remain childless, the Dutch Crown "was bound to pass into the possession of a German prince, whose birth, training, and affiliations would naturally have led him to bring Holland within the sphere of the German Empire, at the expense of her independence, both national and economic", according to one

contemporary publication. The birth of Juliana, on 30 April 1909, was met with great relief after eight years of childless marriage. Wilhelmina suffered two further miscarriages on 23 January and 20 October 1912.

Reign

Tactful, and careful to operate within the limits of what was expected by the Dutch people and their elected representatives, the strong-willed Wilhelmina became a forceful personality who spoke and acted her mind.

Queen Wilhelmina also had a keen understanding of business matters and her investments made her the world's richest woman, a status retained by her daughter, Juliana, and by her granddaughter, Beatrix.

Before the First World War started, the young Wilhelmina visited the powerful German Emperor Wilhelm II, who boasted to the Queen of a relatively small country, "my guards are seven feet tall and yours are only shoulder-high to them." Wilhelmina smiled politely and replied, "Quite true, Your Majesty, your guards are seven feet tall. But when we open our dikes, the water is ten feet deep!"

Welcome
King Willem-Alexander
and
Queen Maxima



Thank you
Queen Beatrix

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“Four Kings” Medal for King Willem-Alexander



The Royal Dutch Mint has launched a medal which will mark the occasion of the four kings of the Netherlands as well as the accession of the Prince of Orange, Willem-Alexander to the throne of the Netherlands on the 30th April of this year. Prince Willem Alexander has been crown prince since his mother's own accession to the Dutch throne on the 30th April 1980.

The medal includes an official portrait of the soon-to-be King, who according to Dutch numismatic tradition, will face to the opposite side as the previous Monarch, that is, to the right. Crown Prince Willem-Alexander will on his day of accession, be the country's first King in more than 123 years, as the last King, Willem III – the new

King's great-great grandfather died in 1890 leaving the throne to his 10 year old daughter who was Queen Wilhelmina. It is expected that shortly after the Crown Prince's day of accession, his investiture and swearing-in to the States General assembly will follow soon thereafter.

The medal, designed by Graphic artist and Royal Mint-trained engraver Michael Guilfoyle is one of the country's most prolific and well known coin designer, depicts a detailed profile of Willem-Alexander in a more traditional style. The text “WILLEM ALEXANDER KONING DER NEDERLANDEN” appears around the portrait with the year of accession of “2013” included below the portrait

with a stylized initial of “W” placed to the left of the year and a small crown placed to the right.

Also included on the reverse design are the portraits of the country's previous three kings, those of Willem I, Willem II and Willem III which are overlapped and facing to the right. A ribbon-like banner containing their names is positioned below their portraits with a detailed crown placed above all three portraits. Below the portraits is a stylized “W” and finally the mintmarks of the Royal Dutch Mint can be seen to either side of the “W” initial.

Struck to proof quality in sterling silver, the medal weighs 31.1 grams and has a diameter of 38.1 mm. A total mintage of just 2,000 pieces has been authorized and the Royal Dutch Mint have indicated that the portrait is in fact a pre-cursor to the official portrait which may be used on circulation type coinage for the Netherlands.

This medal design is also available in a smaller size (30 mm) and struck in cupro-nickel with a coin-card package.

Dutch Crown Prince tames paparazzi en route to throne

When Willem-Alexander and Maxima next week become Europe's youngest king and queen, they will already have dealt with arguably the greatest challenges facing a 21st century monarch: taming the media.

Unlike British royals, relentlessly stalked by the paparazzi many still blame for the 1997 death of princess Diana, the Dutch royal couple appear to have established the ground rules for their relationship with the press.

But it has not always been plain sailing. The symbiosis between the Dutch royal family and the media has been tumultuous in the past, even descending into legal disputes or violence, particularly when Willem-Alexander, now 45, was involved.

Things got off to a bad start for the crown prince when as an 11-year-old, apparently frustrated with yet another official photo call, shouted: “All Dutch media go to hell.”

In the 1980s a young Willem-Alexander was frequently portrayed as a hard-partying royal and when a photograph of him as a beer-swilling student appeared in the press, it landed him the monicker of “Prince Pils”.

An allegation by late Dutch glamour and paparazzi king Joop van Tellingen that a youthful Willem-Alexander took a swing at him at Zurich airport while apparently waiting for a girlfriend, also did not help.

“I think in his youth, Willem-Alexander learnt the hard way that the media is important in terms of his image,” said Han van Bree, a Dutch historian who specialises in the royal family.

The future king in an interview in 1997 said: “My image is not something that keeps me busy every day. But I find it sad that one picture in a paper of me holding a glass of beer has more influence on my image than four years of training to be the future king.”

After marrying Argentine-born Maxima Zorreguieta in 2002, interest in the royal couple intensified, especially after the birth of their daughters, future heir to the throne Catharina-Amalia, princess Alexia and princess Ariane.

By 2005 after several incidents and a lawsuit, the Dutch government information service unilaterally introduced a press code at the royal family's



behest.

“The personal lives of the Dutch royal family must be respected... and left alone at such times when they step into the public eye in their private capacity,” the code states. If the media transgresses “suitable steps can be taken” including a temporary or permanent withdrawal of accreditation for royal events “or a lawsuit.”

Dutch media have largely respected the code, snapping away at official shoots including of the royal family on holiday, but US news agency Associated Press bore the brunt of the royals' wrath when in 2009 they ran “unauthorised” photographs of the family skiing in Argentina.

The prince won the ensuing lawsuit, with an Amsterdam judge saying the pictures did not contribute to public debate and ordering AP withdraw the shots.

The royal Dutch press code also had another unexpected result: it cultivated a mix of the aloofness of royalty with the informality of a normal modern family, analysts said.

But historian Van Bree warned that the royals should not become too attached to being “normal”: “It should not be too simple. If the monarchy loses its luster, it loses its exceptional side.”

The royals themselves have nevertheless not always managed to avoid the pitfalls of close media scrutiny. In 2009 they were forced to sell a sumptuous villa on the Mozambican coast after a media storm erupted about the luxury project in the impoverished African country.

And last year, Willem-Alexander admitted shame after he was pictured playing a traditional Dutch game of toilet-bowl tossing in a small town he was visiting during the annual Queen's Day celebrations.

Royal Titles

After she has signed the instrument of abdication, the former Queen will have the title of Her Royal Highness Princess Beatrix of the Netherlands, Princess of Orange-Nassau. She will be addressed as **Your Royal Highness**.

From that moment on, the new monarch will be referred to as His Majesty the King. His official title will be His Majesty King Willem-Alexander, King of the Netherlands, Prince of Orange-Nassau, etc., etc., etc. He will be addressed as **Your Majesty**.

As the King's wife, Princess Máxima will be referred to as Her Majesty the Queen. Her official title, like that of the wives of Kings Willem I, Willem II and Willem III, will be Her Majesty Queen Máxima, Princess of the Netherlands, Princess of Orange-Nassau. She will be addressed as **Your Majesty**.

This does not mean that she will become the head of state or have the same powers and responsibilities as the



monarch. It is a courtesy title for the wife of the King.

Immediately after the abdication, Princess Catharina-Amalia, the eldest daughter of the new King and Queen, will become Her Royal Highness the Princess of Orange, in accordance with section 7 of the Membership of the Royal House Act.

Succession

The titles and names of the

other members of the Royal House will not change after the abdication. What will change, however, is the membership of the Royal House. From that moment on, under the Membership of the Royal House Act, the children of Princess Margriet and Professor Pieter van Vollenhoven and the children of Prince Constantijn and Princess Laurentien will cease to be

members of the Royal House, which will then comprise:

- the King, the Queen and their children
- Princess Beatrix
- Prince Constantijn and Princess Laurentien
- Princess Margriet and Professor Pieter van Vollenhoven.

In addition, the Constitution stipulates that the title to the throne is reserved to blood relatives of the monarch up to the third degree of consanguinity as defined in Dutch law. This means that Prince Maurits and Prince Bernhard will no longer be in the line of succession to the throne.

When the Prince of Orange becomes King, the line of succession will start with his children: the Princess of Orange, Princess Alexia and Princess Ariane. Next in line will be Prince Constantijn, then his children and finally Princess Margriet.

Royal standard and royal coat of arms

From his investiture onwards, the new King will fly the royal standard and use the

royal coat of arms. The royal standard is a square orange flag, divided into four quarters by a cross of Nassau blue, with in the centre the arms of the Kingdom of the Netherlands surmounted by a crown and surrounded by the insignia of the Military Order of William. Each quarter displays a blue bugle, which originated in the arms of the principality of Orange. Queen Wilhelmina adopted this standard in 1908, since when it has been flown by the head of state. It flies above the palaces where the monarch resides and works when he is in the country.

The royal coat of arms was adopted by King Willem I in 1815 and has not changed significantly since 1907. The royal coat of arms is the same as the coat of arms of the Kingdom. It depicts a crowned lion rampant against a background of blue strewn with golden billets supported by two lions. A ribbon beneath the shield bears the motto 'Je maintiendrai' (I will maintain). The coat of arms will also remain the same.

Investiture

The Constitution stipulates that the investiture must take place in the capital city, Amsterdam, at a public joint session of the two Houses of the States General (Parliament) – the Senate and House of Representatives. The monarch swears or affirms allegiance to the Charter for the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Constitution. The wording of the oath or affirmation is laid down by statute.



April 30, 1980 shows Dutch Queen Beatrix taking the oath next to her husband Prince Claus

The oath or affirmation of allegiance to the Charter for the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Constitution

'I solemnly swear (affirm) to the peoples of the Kingdom that I shall constantly preserve and uphold the Charter for the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Constitution. I swear (affirm) that I shall defend and preserve the independence and the territory of the Kingdom to the best of my ability, that I shall protect the freedoms and rights of all Dutch nationals and all persons living in the Netherlands, and that I shall employ all means placed at My disposal by the law to support and promote the welfare of all, as is incumbent upon a good and faithful King. So help me God! (This I affirm and promise).'

Investiture ceremony

The ceremony dates from 1815, when Willem I was invested as King of the Netherlands in the Nieuwe Kerk in Amsterdam, the site of every ceremony since then. The ceremony in its present form dates from 1840, the investiture of King Willem II.

Although it takes place in a church, the investiture is purely secular, conducted in accordance with constitutional law. During an investiture, the crown, the sceptre and the orb are displayed on a credence table, along with the other regalia - the sword of state and the national standard. A copy of the Constitution is also displayed.

Itinerary King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima tour of provinces



After the royal succession on 30 April 2013 the King and Queen will tour all the provinces of the Netherlands in May and June, visiting two provinces a day. The Queen's Commissioners have been asked to submit suggestions for the programme.

The royal couple will not just visit the provincial capitals, but a number of other locations as well. In **mid-November** they will tour the **Caribbean** part of the Kingdom.

The dates for the visits are as follows:

- 28 May** - Groningen / Drenthe
- 30 May** - Gelderland / Utrecht
- 12 June** - Limburg / North Brabant
- 14 June** - Friesland / North Holland
- 19 June** - Flevoland / Overijssel
- 21 June** - Zeeland / South Holland

Royal Dutch Liquours

The Netherlands has always played a leading role in the world of fine spirits. The Dutch were the first to understand the art of making excellent spirit from agricultural products, that technology has spread across the world. For example The Dutch were the first liqueur producers in the world.

The coronation / inauguration of King Willem Alexander and Maxima Queen is the opportunity for many distilleries to launch special liquors.

Following are the special limited editions of delicious royal orange liqueur or orange bitters.



Coronation Willem-Alexander Royal Orange Liqueur

For the special celebration on 30 April, Royal Suplier Schermer Distillers-since 1782 from - Hoorn, Netherlands, Holland, designed a special jar.

With permission of the RVD, they have a very nice collectors item made: a 50 cl white jug filled with orange liqueur 23% vol. and imprinted with black silkscreen. On the jar, you will find very typical portraits of Queen Beatrix and Willem Alexander with Maxima. Of course, the date 30 April 2013 has a prominent place on the jar and also the 200 years kingdom of The Netherlands stated there on.



The beautiful Coronation of King Willem Alexander & Maxima jug.

Following the memorial jars developed for marrying our prince Willem Alexander & Maxima and the birth of two of his daughters, now a 4th jug has been made.

A wonderful stone jug painted in beautiful colours en prints. A real collectors item in limited edition!

Photo history of Prince Willem Alexander



Prince Willem-Alexander, Queen Beatrix en Prince Constantijn at a Queen's Day event in Zuidlaren.



Queen Beatrix and Crown Prince Willem Alexander at the official opening of the new Willembrug in Rotterdam. The event is the first official act of the crown prince.



After high school, Prince Willem-Alexander performed military service in the Royal Netherlands Navy from August 1985 to January 1987. He received his training at the Royal Netherlands Naval College and the frigates HNLMS Tromp and HNLMS Abraham Crijnssen, where he was an ensign. In 1988, he received additional training at the ship HNLMS Van Kinsbergen and became a lieutenant (junior grade)



Netherlands' Queen Beatrix, and her late husband prince Claus pose with their 15-month-old son Prince Willem Alexander in July 1968.



Smoking a cigarette



Crown Prince Willem Alexander and Prince Johan Friso standing in front of the Natural Bridge during a visit to Aruba.

Dutch to crown new king with massive party

THE HAGUE (AFP) - Famed worldwide for their merrymaking abilities, the Dutch on Tuesday set to preparing an "unforgettable" party for the coronation of their new king Willem Alexander on April 30.

Amsterdam hotels have already been booked up less than 24 hours after Queen Beatrix announced she would abdicate, and city hall has been overwhelmed by offers of partymaking help.

The coronation is to be held on the traditional national holiday of Queen's Day, during which public drunkenness is tolerated, and the Dutch dress up in the royal colour orange.

Nationwide, streets and

canals throng with sometimes unruly crowds dressed in garish orange scarves, shirts, wigs, even clogs.

Some people fall in the canals, but the good natured event in the well-organised country rarely sees serious accidents or fights.

Even Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte, 45, and no stranger to some of The Hague's cafes, on Monday called on the Dutch to have an enormous party on the day.

"A party that matches our feelings today," Rutte said, although calling for the party not to be too extravagant because of the state of the economy.

"Amsterdam and Amster-

dammers will, with all the Dutch, make April 30 an unforgettable day," city hall said in a statement soon after Beatrix said she would step down after almost 33 years on the throne.

Amsterdam spokesman Bartho Boer said Dutch people around the country had been telephoning city hall either to hold events in Amsterdam on the day or to offer their services as volunteers.

"We're expecting an extremely festive day," Amsterdam Tourist Federation spokeswoman Machteld Ligtoet told AFP.

"There will be more people attending the party than during a normal Queen's Day," she said, adding that all

hotels in the city centre were already booked up.

Amsterdam's notorious coffee shops will also see particularly brisk trade in soft drugs, consumed by the Dutch and foreigners alike, and largely tolerated on the street on the special day.

In The Hague, the seat of government, Queen's Night is the big event, with thousands thronging the streets of the reputedly staid city for live concerts, fairs and other street events.

It's no coincidence that Holland House, sponsored by Dutch beermaker Heineken, at Alexandra Palace was one of the most sought-after party venues during last year's London Olympics.

Popular daily Algemeen Dagblad noted on Tuesday that "for many subjects, the real news of the day wasn't the sovereign's abdication, but the fact that Queen's Day no longer exists."

When Beatrix became queen in 1980, her coronation day, which was also her mother Juliana's birthday, became Queen's Day. Once Willem Alexander is crowned, King's Day will be held every April 27 of his reign.

The day is the birthday of Willem Alexander, nicknamed "Prince Pils" in his youth because of his ability to drink large quantities of beer at student parties.

Princess Masako of Japan to make her first overseas visit in 11 years for the Dutch inauguration



Japanese royalty

Princess Masako of Japan is to make her first official overseas visit in nearly 11 years. The Japanese royal, who suffers from a stress-induced adjustment disorder that has forced her to take a break from many official engagements, will leave Japan for the Dutch inauguration that will see Prince Willem-Alexander become King of the Netherlands and Princess Maxima become his Queen consort.

Princess Masako, 49, and her husband Crown Prince Naruhito, 53, will travel to Amsterdam for the ceremony on 30 April, marking their first joint overseas engagement since they toured Australia and New Zealand in August 2002.

Following consultations with Masako's doctors, Japan's Imperial Household is said to be in the final stages of formally replying to the Dutch royal invitation and making arrangements for the couple's visit.

Heirs to the Japanese throne, Naruhito and Masako, enjoy a good friendship with the Dutch royals. In

August 2006 Queen Beatrix invited the pair to spend two weeks in the Netherlands on a private retreat.

The trip was two years after Princess Masako's adjustment disorder was diagnosed in 2004. Masako's condition has since left her husband to represent Japan at official events including Luxembourg's royal wedding in 2012.

Also confirmed on the inauguration's royal guest list are Prince Felipe and Princess Letizia of Spain.

Felipe, 45, and his wife

Letizia, 40, will journey to the Dutch capital of Amsterdam to see Prince Willem-Alexander and Princess Maxima become King and Queen of the Netherlands on 30 April.

Spain's royal heirs will witness Queen Beatrix's abdication ceremony in Amsterdam's Royal Palace along with dignitaries, members of parliament and members of her family. Following a short address by Queen Beatrix, 75, the Director of the Queen's Office will read aloud the instruction of abdi-

cation, which the Queen will assent to with her signature.

At 10.30, His Majesty King Willem-Alexander and Her Majesty Queen Maxima will then appear with Beatrix, now Her Royal Highness Princess Beatrix, on the balcony of the palace to greet their people. The former sovereign and Willem-Alexander will then both give an address, followed by the national anthem.

Willem-Alexander and Maxima joined the Prince Felipe and Princess Letizia in Rome last month for Pope

Francis I's inaugural mass. In keeping with Vatican protocol, Maxima and Letizia looked striking in demure outfits and distinctive lace veils as they chatted to each other at the open air mass.

Felipe and Letizia, who will one day ascend to the Spanish throne, are close to their European counterparts and recently joining them in the Dutch town of Apeldoorn.

Willem-Alexander and Maxima invited their fellow royal heirs to Het Oude Loo, a former hunting lodge, to spend time together.

In honor of Queen Beatrix



Queen Beatrix on her last visit to Aruba as the Dutch Queen in 2012



A new chapter
in the history of the
Dutch Kingdom.

After 123 Years
there will be a
King once again!

Welcome to the new king:
KING WILLEM-ALEXANDER
and **QUEEN MAXIMA**

Thank you for all the years
Queen Beatrix.

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